

**MINUTES OF THE  
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, May 18, 2005 – 9:00 a.m. – Room W135 House Building

**Members Present:**

Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Senate Chair  
Rep. Margaret Dayton, House Chair  
Sen. Patrice M. Arent  
Sen. Chris Buttars  
Sen. Karen Hale  
Sen. Mark B. Madsen  
Sen. David L. Thomas  
Rep. Ron Bigelow  
Rep. LaVar Christensen  
Rep. John Dougall  
Rep. James A. Ferrin  
Rep. James R. Gowans  
Rep. David L. Hogue  
Rep. Kory M. Holdaway  
Rep. Gregory H. Hughes

Rep. Bradley T. Johnson  
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss  
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold  
Rep. LaWanna "Lou" Shurtliff  
Rep. Stephen H. Urquhart

**Members Absent:**

Rep. Duane E. Bourdeaux

**Staff Present:**

Ms. Constance C. Steffen, Policy Analyst  
Mr. Phillip V. Dean, Policy Analyst  
Mr. Dee S Larsen, Associate General Counsel  
Ms. Glenda S. Whitney, Legislative Secretary

**Note:** A list of others present and a copy of related materials can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov) or by contacting the committee secretary, Glenda Whitney, at 538-1032. A recording of the meeting is available from the committee secretary.

**1. Committee Business**

Chair Stephenson called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. He explained that the Legislative Management Committee approved the Committee's submitted list of study items with the exception of the item, "Governor's Education Initiatives." He explained the Legislative Management Committee's approval process for interim studies. Chair Stephenson suggested resubmitting this study item with more information to the Legislative Management Committee for further consideration and approval.

**MOTION:** Rep. Hogue moved to approve the revised minutes of the May 20, 2005 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Buttars, Rep. Bigelow, Rep. Christensen, Rep. Hughes, Rep. Newbold, and Rep. Urquhart were absent for the vote.

**2. U-PASS Accountability Plan**

Chair Stephenson noted at the April meeting, the Committee received a presentation from the USOE (Utah State Office of Education) on the U-PASS Accountability Plan, but had no time to receive public comment on the plan. He invited the public to comment on the Utah Accountability Plan at this meeting.

Ms. Pat Rusk, President, and Ms. Kaye Chatterton, Director of Teaching and Learning, UEA (Utah Education Association) indicated that the U-PASS Accountability Plan is still a work in progress and continuing discussion on the plan is needed.

Supt. Patti Harrington, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Ms. Judy Park, Evaluation and Assessment, USOE, responded to questions from the Committee on the U-PASS Accountability Plan.

### **3. Utah Basic Skills Competency Test**

Chair Stephenson noted beginning with the high school graduating class of 2006, a graduate will need to pass UBSCT (Utah Basic Skills Competency Test), in addition to meeting state and school district course requirements, to receive a regular high school diploma. Utah law does not exempt students seeking a high school diploma through adult education programs from the test requirement. Since the test is administered just twice a year and during school day hours, it can be inconvenient for adult education students, who may be working, to take the test.

The Committee considered alternatives to UBSCT for adult education students.

Mr. Dean distributed and presented a slide presentation, "Utah Basic Skills Competency Test." He presented background information on UBSCT and reported on test results. Other handouts distributed were: 1) "53A-1-611. Standards and assessment processes to measure student performance -- Basic skills competency test;" 2) "Sample UBSCT Test Questions;" and 3) "Class of 2006 UBSCT Disaggregate Data - Comparison within Subgroups."

Ms. Park, Ms. Christine Kearn, Associate Superintendent, USOE, and Ms. Sandy Johnson, Data Specialist, USOE, reviewed and distributed handouts, "The Utah Basic Skills Competency Test Framework Mathematics Content and Sample Question," and "UBSCT Results for the Class of 2006." During the slide presentation, they responded to questions from the Committee on UBSCT.

Mr. Larsen continued with the slide presentation, "Utah Basic Skills Competency Test," and discussed testing accommodations and modifications for students with disabilities and English language learners.

Ms. Steffen continued with the slide presentation, "Utah Basic Skills Competency Test," and reported on remediation programs and the alternative completion diploma, which will be awarded to graduates who do not pass UBSCT.

Dr. Claudia Thorum, Director, and Mr. David Frost, Coordinator, Adult Education, Granite School District, reviewed and distributed a handout, "Impact of UBSCT on Adult High School Completion Students and Recommendations for Solution." They explained the impact of UBSCT on adult students and made recommendations urging the Legislature to remove the barriers for high school completion for adult students.

Ms. Kearn asked the Committee for rulemaking authority to provide for alternatives to and exemptions from UBSCT.

Chair Stephenson stated his intention to continue this discussion on adult education and asked staff to work with the USOE in preparing draft legislation for the Committee's consideration. He also requested that a one-page handout describing U-PASS and its components be prepared.

Supt. Harrington invited the Committee to a meeting on social promotion at Spring Creek Elementary School in Provo on June 14, 2005 at 8:30 p.m.

#### **4. Other Items / Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Rep. Hughes moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Arent, Sen. Thomas, Rep. Bigelow, Rep. Gowans, and Rep. Johnson absent for the vote. Chair Stephenson adjourned the meeting at 12:09 p.m.